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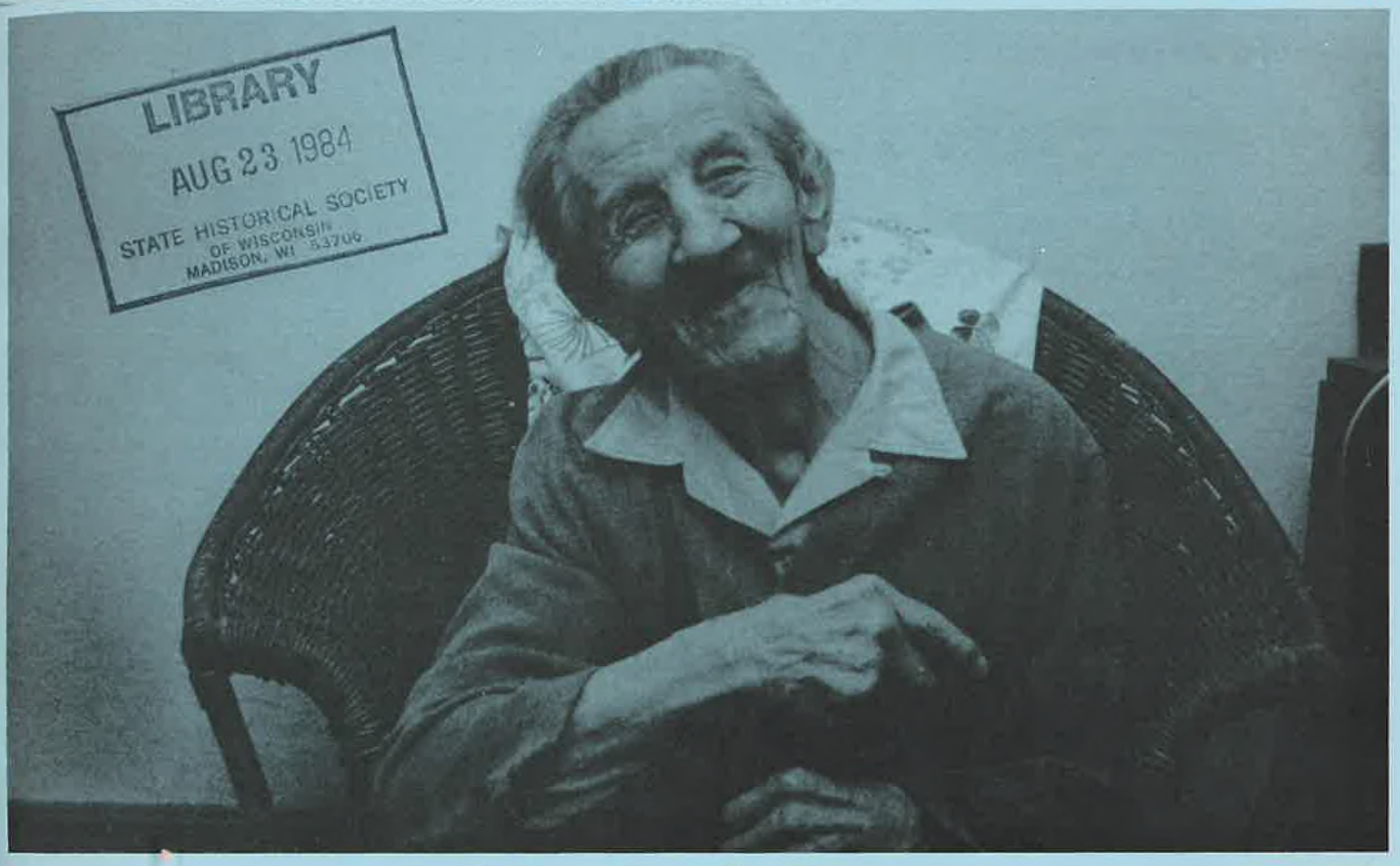
St. Stephen

SANGRE DE CRISTO NEWSNOTES

BY FATHER DANIEL E. JONES • BOX 89, WESTCLIFFE, COLORADO 81252 • (303) 783-2491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News and Views

FRITZ RAPCZINSKI

Fritz Rapczinski (above) is someone very special in the traditional Catholic apostolate. A fascinating novel could be written about this dear man's life, I'm sure. As far as I know, he has no family except the Joe Mayers in the Durango area who took him into their home several years ago. He has been crippled for some time. A few months ago when I brought him Holy Communion, I learned that he had not for some months been able to venture outside the house. He is in the literal sense a shut-in.

Back around 1895 he started collecting stamps. He's still doing so. You should see his marvelous collection! What a wealth of history is contained in those stacks of carefully sorted albums! The same could be said for his fine collection of matchbook covers.

I've never heard Fritz complain of his lot in life or express any sentiments of envy or self-pity. He is always so cheerful and grateful when a traditional priest takes time to spend a few moments with him. He lives over two hundred and fifty miles from the nearest such priest and 25-30 miles from the Durango circuit Mass center, so sometimes it is over a year or more between "pastoral visits."

Probably only when we get to Heaven will we learn of the good that this man, through his quiet life of union with God, has done for so many of us.

8-PAGE NEWSLETTER

My competent and helpful traditional Catholic printers have several times suggested that I economize once in awhile with an 8 page newsletter. Lo and behold I am economizing! The SDCN is part of an apostolate, not a money making operation. — Not counting advertising expenses, subscription income pays for approximately ¾ of the cost of production, distribution, and secretarial services required to publish such a journal. It is therefore regularly subsidized from my circuit Mass salary and through special donations. My printers, too, have regularly made donations of their time and talents, and once even donated the entire printing cost for the most expensive edition I have yet put out, one which had a 4-color cover published at Christmas in 1977.

Continued next page . . .

■ *NEWS AND VIEWS continued from page 1*

ADVERTISING

Over the last couple of years several kind people have helped me and the traditional Catholic apostolate by paying for ads for the SDCN in several nationally circulated publications. These ads have accounted for many new readers and for several "converts" to the traditional Catholic cause.

Two generous benefactors have footed the bill for a series of ads in AMERICAN OPINION and THE REVIEW OF THE NEWS magazines during 1980. As soon as I'm able (i.e., have the benefactors) I plan to place ads in the NATIONAL CATHOLIC REGISTER, TWIN CIRCLE and OUR SUNDAY VISITOR. If they will accept them now, I would like to advertise, also in THE REMNANT, THE ANGELUS, and THE WANDERER. The MARYFAITHFUL carried a display ad for me during 1979, but that ad will probably be dropped in favor of other publications which produce a better response in proportion to the cost of advertising. I recently submitted a classified ad to run in several issues of PUBLIC SCRUTINY, the informative monthly publication of the National Health Federation.

FATHER FENTON

I have been working with Father Fenton this winter on the important project of establishing a formal traditional Catholic priests' organization. Father Fenton will head this fraternity of priests and its headquarters will be located in Colorado Springs, Colorado. We will do our best to further the cause of the true Catholic Church and to provide priestly service, instruction and guidance for the faithful Catholics with whom we are and will be in contact. A Providential catalyst for this move was the shake-up we experienced in the ORCM the 2nd half of 1979. The ORCM claims under its new circumstances to be fundamentally a lay organization. If Father Fenton had not been "forced" out of it, his plans were to make it clearly a priests' organisation. It is unfortunate (for them) that the current spokesmen for the ORCM exhibit such harsh feelings toward Father Fenton and his friends. While its president, he and his assistant, John Fragale, were responsible for a very financially stable situation, not the opposite as the last two ORCM newsletters have falsely claimed. If you have not already done so, you probably will want to subscribe to Father's informative newsletter ($6.00 for 8 issues): THE ATHANASIAN, P.O. Box 6827, Colorado Springs, Colorado 80934.

FATHER BAKER

It may at first come as a surprise to some to see Father Oswald Baker's fine article on respect for animals in my newsletter. You see, Michael Davies' daughter, among others, seems to have the idea that because I fish and hunt I have an inappropriate attitude towards God's many living creatures which share this planet with us. She will likely be a little perplexed to see Father Baker's article in my newsletter and even more puzzled to read that I endorse the principles which Father Baker espouses. You see I have great admiration and respect for animals. God gave them a particular and special place in His creation. They have the good fortune and blessing to belong to an order above that of inanimate objects and plants. But unlike men and angels, they do not have as an inherent part of their nature free will, rational understanding, the destiny of existing forever, and the call to have a share in the Divine Life Itself. The Holy Scriptures tell us that animals were created for man. That is a primary purpose of their very being. It would be immoral and is foolish for any man to abuse animals or not to treat them with proper respect.

God has provided that there be a balance in nature. Some animals are designed to stalk and kill other animals. Whole species of hunted animals would likely flounder and perish were they not to benefit from the Providential law of the survival of the fittest in which law predatory animals play no small part.

In respect to big game hunting and management, Game and Fish officials can tell you that man can and does pay a role similiar to that of predatory animals. If deer and elk were not harvested by man to feed their families and friends, these herds of wild animals would be naturally (or unnaturally) controlled by starvation or probably some other unpleasant-to-contemplate means.

Gee whiz, did I have to write all that just to convince a few skeptical readers of why I have no qualms of conscience in reporting that after several days of hard hunting this fall, I finally did bag, with one shot through the heart, a stately four-point buck? My secretary and others can tell you, too, that they do not regret having had the chance of being able to enjoy a good venison steak, roast and/or stew some cold evening this winter. And if you had had a chance to taste some of my delicious venison jerky, well . . . And, boy, were my two dogs happy to get those deer bones and scraps. The hide, by the way, is being tanned into some fine buckskin leather.

NEWS FROM FRANCE

I just received my first issue of INTROIBO the quarterly bulletin of the l'Association sacerdotale Noel PINOT. Father Andre, the secretary general of this sacerdotal association wrote to me July 31st stating that they are organized for the defense of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass and have about 600 priest members. The lead article of the October 1979 issue No. 26 of INTROIBO is entitled "Chronicle of Judas Maccabee". At the beginning of the article are encouraging quotes from three bishops: Bishop Graber, current bishop of Ratisbonne, Archbishop da Silva, archbishop of Praga and primate of Portugal, and Cardinal Ratzinger, archbishop of Munich.

I only have space this time to relay the quote attributed to Archbishop da Silva:

"For 10 years already, they have had experiences in the Church, and these experiences have become a fiasco. The Church should return to the times before the council: Vatican II has sown the wind and reaped a tempest."

A brief quote from the lead article of that issue will give you an idea of its tenor:

"By exception, we are putting three quotations (en exergue) in this number 26, because they confirm, in a sense, our positions. It is evident that the first step, for carrying a remedy to the wounds of the Church is to record the catastrophe which has hit her, in place of closing ones eyes and ears. But, three foreign bishops have had the courage to swim against the current, to cry out the truth,

Continued next page . . .

■ *NEWS AND VIEWS continued from page 2*

these recent years. You can add to them Bishop Castro-Meyer of Brasil, Bishop Guerra-Campos in Spain, and several others more unobtrusive. Some of them, on retreat, have belonged to or are joining the Association Noel-Pinot, and are therefore well in agreement with us".

Hopefully, now, in future issues I'll be able to find more time and space for translations of the more pertinent and interesting parts of this and other French periodicals.

RENEWAL TIME

If your subscription expires with this issue, you will do us a favor and save time and money, if you would kindly send in your renewal now. The date above and to the right of your name and address on the envelope indicates the year through which your current subscription has been paid.

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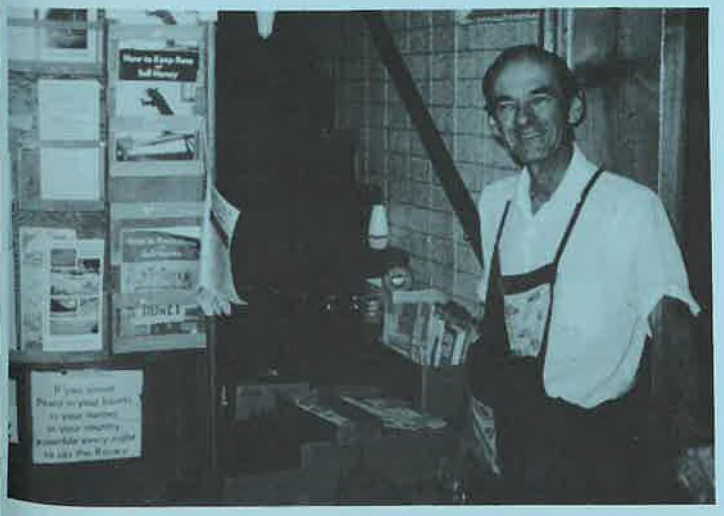
SELF DENIAL

"I would, then, that I could convince spiritual persons that this road to God consists not in a multiplicity of meditations nor in ways or methods of such, nor in consolations, although these things may in their own way be necessary to beginners; but that it consists only in the one thing that is needful, which is the ability to deny oneself truly, according to that which is without and to that which is within, giving oneself up to suffering for Christ's sake, and to total annihilation. For the soul that practises this suffering and annihilation will achieve all that those other exercises can achieve, and that can be found in them, and even more. And if a soul be found wanting in this exercise, which is the sum and root of the virtues, all its other methods are so much beating about the bush, and profiting not at all, although its meditations and communications may be as lofty as those of angels".

Ascent of Mount Carmel Book I Ch. VII
By St. John of the Cross



Mr. Joseph Mayer, a faithful traditional Catholic, is well-known for his hard work and expertise with bees. He sells delicious honey by mail and at his home store at Honeyville, 33633 Highway 550, Durango, Colo. 81301

Michael Davies, noted Catholic author, braces himself against the jeep that took him, one windy day last August, up to the 12,000 foot high Horseshoe Lake in the Sangre de Cristo Mountains west of Westcliffe.

RESPECT AND AFFECTION FOR ANIMALS

By Father Oswald Baker

Man's treatment of animals seems, on the whole, to have grown worse, rather than better, over the centuries. You may remember Lord Clark's television programme, about two years ago, on Animals in Art, which showed how man began by worshipping his animal ancestors, feeling indebted to them for his very existence. Then he began to befriend animals and domesticate them. Then he made use of them, to protect his home, to help hunt other species, carry his loads, and pull his vehicles. Then he hunted and killed them for food. Then he refined his hunting into sport. Then he trapped them, to capture them, and degrade and ridicule them in circuses, or trapped them out of existence for their attractive skins. Then he went on to breed them, with a view to slaughter, or to shoot them for fun. Or he imprisons them for life for, e.g., forced production of eggs for him.

The exploitation of animals has now reached unprecedented levels. In this country each year about half a million sows are kept in stalls in which they are unable to turn round, on an unbedded floor of concrete or slats, many of them almost continually in darkness. About forty thousand young calves are reared for the 'white veal' trade in slatted floored crates, unable to turn round, unable to lie down freely, unable even to groom themselves freely. Some, again, in near darkness. Anyone keeping a dog in those conditions would be prosecuted. There can be no moral justification for inducing an anaemia in an animal simply to produce white flesh for a gourmet diet. About forty million hens are kept in crowded battery cages, unable to spread even one wing, and balanced permanently on sloping wire. The good name of the Church is compromised when a community of nuns in our midst engages in the business of battery egg farming. When protests against it were raised some months ago, their bishop wrote to the press resenting attacks on what he unaccountably called "defenceless nuns". They are assuredly as free as any other accused citizens to try to justify their practices. Battery egg production has been illegal in Denmark since 1950, and there is a powerful movement against it in Switzerland, Germany and Holland.

Our trouble is that changing techniques are no longer in the hands of stockmen who understand animals and animal behaviour, but in charge of engineers and technicians whose designs in housing and equipment may be more concerned with ease of management than with the contentment and wellbeing of the animals. We are morally entitled to use animals only within the limits imposed by their sensitive nature. The young calf and pig and the chicken are lively and responsive, playful and intelligent, and are fully entitled to the same protection under the law as dogs. The exploitation of animals - let nuns take note - is an immorality which is associated with atheism. The great majority no longer heed the laws of God, and given an atheistic mentality, factory farming, battered wives and battered babies, promiscuity, abortion and vandalism are all of a piece.

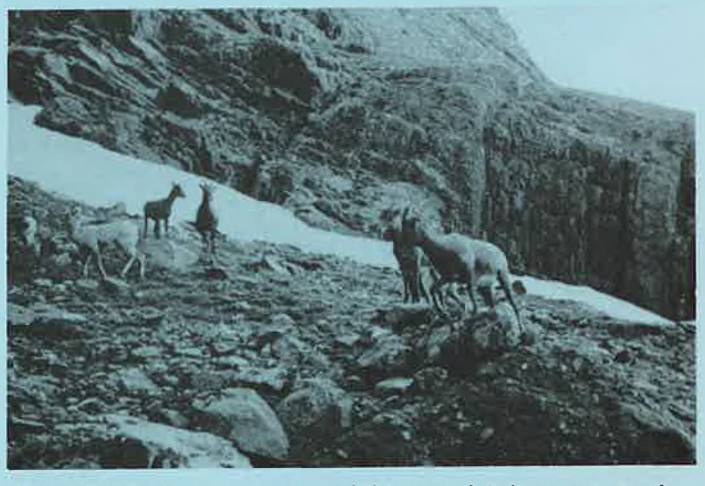
However, there is another side to this picture of insane abuse. The zoo is extended to the safari park and game reserve. Species are bred in captivity to replace those hunted to extermination. A sizeable proportion of the public do care. There are over sixty animal welfare organisations in this country. There are on the Statute Book some twenty-five Acts of Parliament dealing with dogs alone. Sadly, not all legislation is enforced. For many years voluntary animal welfare societies have battled on alone. It is they who attempt to deal with the stray animal problem. They home what animals they can, but still have to destroy about two thousand dogs a day. Those who devote themselves to the protection and care of animals are the very people left to do the heartbreaking job of having them put down.

We in this country have a reputation for a kind and godly attitude to domestic animals. Is it deserved? You remember the nation-wide outcry in early August this year, when the rector of St. Helen's parish church in Brant Broughton in Lincolnshire had a sparrow in the rafters shot for chirping during a guitar recital in the church? Vigorous protests reached the media. (One young objector insisted heatedly that rather should the guitarist have been shot. This protester was - four years old. His six-year old sister expressed

the view that since the congregation was also singing, undoubtedly less melodiously than the sparrow, it was the congregation that should have been shot). What of the sincerity of the protests about the sparrow, when millions of other creatures are being treated incomparably worse all the time? Are the public hypocritical? Inconsistent, perhaps, hypocritical, no. Special circumstances can make all the difference. A guitar recital, in church? There is enough traditional good sense of the sacred and of propriety to evoke prompt and widespread sympathy with the sparrow. And the very name sparrow rings a bell. Our Lord singled out the sparrow as an instance of the solicitude of God. "Not one of them shall fall to the ground without your Father..". What caused shock and horror was that the voice of a sparrow, in church, was judged less pleasing to God than the bang of a gun, in church. The memory lingers that a church means sanctuary, for anybody, of old even for a criminal, even for a murderer. The public sense of outrage was understandable. This is not to pass judgement on the Rev. Robin Clark, the rector. He put forward a well reasoned defence of his decision.

It is for us to make sure that we too have a clear consience on our behaviour towards animals. We become the more acceptable to God in proportion as we show respect and affection for all His animals.

Around the middle of July I accompanied my parents and Dr. (Dinosaur) Jim Jensen on a picnic cookout atop Owl Creek Pass east of Ridgeway, Colorado. In my next issue I plan to have some news on the Dry Mesa Dinosaur quary.



One day last summer on a hiking and fishing trip in the high peaks area southwest of town, my dog, Vicki, and I spent over an hour silently observing at close range a herd of Rocky Mountain sheep.

It was a rare occasion last summer when Grandma and Grandpa Jones had all their grandchildren visit them at one time.

My nephew, Kent Davis, and niece, Christi Burkdoll, are at that age . . . They learned how to ride a bike last summer.

JACINTA OF FATIMA

Her Last Days On Earth In A Lisbon Hospital

Ex *Excert from the book: THE IMMACULATE HEART by John DeMarchi, I.M.C.* C.

I soon began to realize that a little angel had come into my house (says Mother Godinho). Although I had long wanted to see the privileged children of Fatima I never imagined that I would have the good fortune to shelter one under my roof.

We had some twenty to twenty-five children in the asylum. Jacinta was friendly with them all but she preferred the company of a little girl about her own age to whom she would give little sermons. It was delightful to hear them, and hidden behind the half-open door, I assisted at many of these conversations.

"You mustn't lie, or be lazy or disobedient, and you must bear everything with patience for love of Our Lord, if you want to go to Heaven". She spoke with such authority; hardly like a child.

During the time she was in my house she must have received a visit from Our Lady more than once. I remember on one occasion she said:

"Please move, dear mother, I am waiting for Our Lady", and her face took on a radiant expression.

It seems that it was not always Our Lady in person who appeared, but a globe of light such as had been seen in Fatima, because we once heard her say:

"This time it wasn't like it was in Fatima, but I knew it was she".

That these later appearances of Our Lady to Jacinta were not mere hallucinations, is rather strongly supported by the child's conversations with Mother Godinho. The wisdom and understanding displayed by this unlettered ten-year-old, lacking anything more than the bare rudiments of religious instruction, would have been almost impossible if the knowledge were not directly infused. The nun was so deeply impressed, that she recorded the following in her own hand. It is Jacinta, speaking of sin:

"The sins which cause most souls to go to hell are the sins of the flesh".

"Fashions will much offend Our Lord. People who serve God should not follow the fashions. The Church has no fashions. Our Lord is always the same".

"The sins of the world are very great".

"If men knew what eternity is, they would do everything to change their lives".

"People are lost because they do not think of the death of Our Lord, and do not do penance".

"Many marriages are not of God, and do not please Our Lord".

On the war:

"Our Lady said that the world is full of war and discords".

"Wars are the punishments for sin".

"Our Lady cannot at present avert the justice of her Son from the world".

"Penance is necessary. If people amend their lives, Our Lord will even yet save the world, but if not, punishment will come".

The reference here (Mother Godinho has written) is to a great punishment of which she spoke in secret, and was revealed in her last days. But there is nothing to prevent its revelation now.

Jacinta said that Our Lord was profoundly outraged by the sins and crimes which were committed in Portugal, and for this reason a terrible social cataclysm threatened our country and particularly the city of Lisbon. A civil war, or Communist revolution would be unchained, which would be accompanied by sacking and violence, and devastation of all kinds. The capital would be converted into an image of hell. This threatened punishment should be revealed little by little and with due discretion.

Jacinta, on priests and rulers:

"You must pray much for sinners, and for priests and religious. Priests should concern themselves only with the things of the Church".

"Priests must be very, very pure".

"Disobedience of priests and religious to their superiors displeases Our Lord very much".

"Pray, mother, for rulers".

"Heaven forgive those who persecute the Church of Christ".

"If the Government would leave the Church in peace and give liberty to religion, it would have God's blessing".

On Christian virtues:

"Mother, fly from riches and luxury".

"Love poverty and silence".

"Have charity, even for bad people".

"Do not speak evil of people, and fly from evil speakers".

"Mortification and sacrifice please Our Lord very much".

"Confession is a sacrament of mercy, and we must confess with joy and trust. There can be no salvation without confession".

"The Mother of God wants more virgin souls bound by a vow of chastity".

"I would gladly go to a convent, but I would rather go to Heaven".

"To be a religious one must be very pure in body and mind".

"Do you know what it means to be pure?" I asked her.

"Yes, yes, I know. To be pure in body means to be chaste, and to be pure in mind means not to commit sins; not to look at what one should not see, not to steal or lie, and always to speak the truth, even if it is hard".

"Doctors do not know how to cure people properly, because they have not the love of God".

"Who taught you these things?" I asked her.

"Our Lady, but some of them I thought myself. I love to think".

There is evidence that the dying, emaciated Jacinta in these happiest of her living days received from her Lady not only moral wisdom but actual glimpses into the future, and that she possessed for a while the gift of prophecy. Mother Godinho one day asked Senhora Olimpia, during a visit to the orphanage: "Would you like your daughters Florinda and Teresa to enter the religious life?"

"Heavens no!" that honest and uncomplicated woman exclaimed, and the discussion seemed at an end.

A little while later, however, Jacinta, who had heard none of the conversation between the women, confided to Mother Godinho with great seriousness:

"Our Lady would like my sisters to be nuns, although my mother would not approve. That is why she will take them both to Heaven before very long".

If this was an "irresponsible" attempt at prophecy it proved amazingly accurate, since shortly after Jacinta's own death her sisters, Florinda, 17, and Teresa, one year younger, followed her to the grave.

Jacinta also assured Mother Godinha, who had long expressed a wish to visit the Cova da Iria, but was faced with almost impossible obstacles in the form of her daily duties, that her desire would be fulfilled as soon as she (Jacinta) died. It happened precisely that way. Circumstances having prevented her burial in Lisbon, it became necessary for Jacinta's body to be accompanied to Vila Nova de Ourem, and the family vault of Baron Alvaiazere. Assigned to this task unexpectedly, by her own superiors, was Mother Godinho, who was able that same day to journey the brief way to Fatima, and pray at the Cova with Lucia at her side.

It is difficult to know the full extent of Jacinta's prophecies. One of the two doctors who treated the child in Lisbon asked her to pray for him when she got to Heaven. She courteously agreed, but then, as though in afterthought, looked at him gravely. "You, too, will be going to Heaven, Doctor, and very soon," she said. The physican died shortly thereafter.

As for the other doctor attending her, she predicted not only his own imminent demise, but the death of his daughter as well. Strangely, the records contain no complaints that she was a dangerous character to have around.

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Kenneth D. McDonald and Linda M. Linnebur were married August 25, 1979, at Our Lady of Victory Chapel in Aurora.

Ferd and Marie Buckholz of Cortez came to Our Lady of Victory Chapel in Aurora, August 25th to celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary.

The majestic Sangre de Cristo Mountains viewed from my back yard, December 1978.

Before the winter of 78-79 was over these wagons on the Mike McManus place near Durango were covered with several feet of snow.